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February 2, 2014

Issue number: 982

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LUTON

# on sunday

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It's the last chapter for libraries as they become victim of cuts

FURIOUS campaigners gathered to protest against the closure of Wigmore Library and Sundon Park library, which shut their doors for the last time on Friday.

Dozens of people spent the morning outside the library on Wigmore Lane with banners and placards in a last-ditch attempt to reverse the decision.

Wigmore Library, Sundon Park and the mobile library service have all been closed as part of Luton Borough Council attempts to make savings.

But Doreen Steinberg, who is

the main campaigner for Wigmore Library has vowed to fight on.

Doreen, who collected a 10,000-signature petition said: "The plans to close these libraries discriminate against the elderly and infirm, and those who cannot afford an internet connection at home.

"Also discriminated against are young mothers – there is no visible alternative for the mothers and tots groups which are so important for social interaction."

*Continues on page 2*

# MPs concern over claims of 'membership packing'

BY CARL MUNGABI

[carl.mungabi@lutononsunday.co.uk](mailto:carl.mungabi@lutononsunday.co.uk)

MPs and senior party officials have raised concerns over allegations of 'membership packing' by Labour in council wards in Luton.

Gavin Shuker, Labour MP for Luton South, said he has been 'challenging the practice' since his election in 2010.

The practice involves people being signed up as party members – sometimes without their knowledge – by individuals wanting to influence the selection of Labour candidates.

An internal Labour party document, seen by *Luton on Sunday*, which has been circulated among local Labour party members, states

that there were 'potential irregularities' with the membership of the Luton South Labour party.

The report shows that in some wards membership had risen by as much as 400 per cent between December 2009 and December 2012.

Four wards are listed as having 'highly unusual' activity, which involves members being signed up in large numbers before key votes and then not renewing their memberships afterwards.

Speaking on a BBC radio show on Friday morning, Mr Shuker said: "There's been one ward in the town where membership has gone up by 500 people, that's bigger than most constituency parties on their own".

He was joined by Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins who said the party needed to change its internal rules and policies as being a member was a 'privilege and a responsibility'.

He said: "If somebody had to be a member for four years before they were allowed to participate either as a candidate or as a voter in selecting candidates, I think that would be a step forward."

The allegations follow the resignation last week of senior Labour councillor Robin Harris who left Luton council. He accused some councillors of using 'underhand tactics, such as bullying and membership packing', although his colleagues have denied the claims.

In a statement Mr Shuker said: "I have consistently challenged the practice of membership packing since I was elected as Luton's MP."

"It is important for the public to be able to trust the political process, and individuals who sign up members in order to control the outcomes of selections, fail to learn the lessons of the past."

"Myself and Kelvin Hopkins stand squarely behind efforts to clean up our local party."

John Whittaker, chairman of the Luton South Labour party, claimed the democratic process in some wards had become 'non-existent'.

He said: "In places the membership of the party has been consist-

ently and systematically packed by a small group of individuals, to their own ends. It is clear to me, and my officers, that in some wards the democratic process is non-existent."

"We've taken every opportunity to try and tackle this abuse, with limited success. As chair I have made it clear that this behaviour is unacceptable, and in some cases could even be illegal."

An East of England Labour Party spokesman said: "The Labour Party is determined to ensure that every Labour candidate is selected in an open, transparent and fair way. We are satisfied that all our selections are being carried out properly and any suggestions otherwise are wrong."

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Mike Richardson**  
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## NEWSDESK

**Editor:** Stefan Bartlett  
editor@lutononsunday.co.uk  
**Newdesk:** 01582 707707  
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# Court rejects sentence appeal from murderer

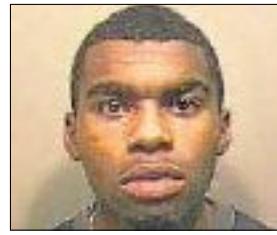
BY JULIA SUTTON  
editor@lutononsunday.co.uk

A GANG member who was caged for at least 24 years for the 'disrespect' murder of a teenage rival has failed to convince top judges his sentence is too long.

Lord Justice Laws said the killing of 19-year-old Delaney Brown by Kyle Beckford, 23, was hugely aggravated by the fact it was a gangland murder.

Mr Brown, who was associated with the town's Lewsey Farm gang, died when Beckford ran into the back of his bicycle, sending him careering into a brick post. Beckford admitted manslaughter, but was convicted by a jury of murder and jailed for a minimum of 24 years at Luton Crown Court last May.

He appealed on Friday but saw his case kicked out of the Court of Appeal by two Lord Justice Laws, Mrs Justice Thirlwall and Judge Paul Batty QC.



APPEAL REJECTED: Kyle Beckford

The court heard Beckford, of Waleys Close, Luton, a leading member of the Marsh Farm gang, was angry at perceived lack of respect shown by the other gang at a family funeral.

On September 5, 2012, while driving a stolen BMW around the town, he came upon Mr Brown and began to chase him.

In Vincent Road, he mounted the pavement and drove into the back wheel of the bicycle, send-

ing the rider sailing through the air. He then left him to die.

During his appeal, his lawyers argued that the 24-year term, which he must serve in its entirety before even being eligible to apply for release, was "manifestly excessive".

Rejecting the argument, Mrs Justice Thirlwall said: "It was a terrible offence. A young man, terrified, was deliberately hunted down in broad daylight on the streets of Luton before the horrified gaze of members of the public.

"This was a gang killing. In his final moments, he would have known he stood no chance against this motor car being driven at him. Once the car drove into this bicycle, his death was certain."

Beckford, who watched his appeal from prison via a video link, can only go free after serving his minimum term if he is considered safe by the Parole Board.

## newsbriefs

### Farley by-election announced

A BY-ELECTION has been announced by Luton council following the resignation of Farley councillor Robin Harris. Mr Harris, who was responsible for the authority's finances, left his post last week.

The election will be held on March 13 and the elected councillor will serve until May 2015.

Anyone wishing to stand should contact the council's electoral services manager on 01582 546088 for a nomination pack, to be completed and returned by noon on February 14.

### Teen threatened with blade

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy in Luton has been robbed of his iPhone at knifepoint.

The teen was walking along Fairford Avenue at 12.30pm on January 28 when two men started to follow him.

A few moments later one suspect approached the youngster, pulled a knife from his trousers and demanded that he handed over his phone and passcode.

Fearing for his safety, the 14-year-old did as he was told and the robbers fled the area. Anyone with information should call Detective Constable Dave Brecknock on 101.

## 'Libraries are vital to communities, they bring people together'

From page one

Mum Claire Lee said: "Sundown Park library is the only building of culture in the area, and that should be protected and not lost."

"I think that libraries are absolutely vital to our communities as they bring people together."

"That's why we are all so sickened by what has happened here."

Campaigners also want to see Luton Culture, who run the libraries on behalf of the council, to make public its accounts.

Narinder Bhouri, Director of Libraries and Community Centres at Luton Culture, said: "We very much regret that the £1.58m cut our charity is facing has forced us to

make changes to the library service.

"We have incredibly loyal customers who deeply value their libraries and the library staff who take pride in serving them. We understand why people are upset which is why we would like to reassure residents that we will work as hard as we can to increase access to library services.

"In Luton 86.6 per cent of people will still live within a mile of a library after these closures – compared to 88 per cent at the moment, and 41 per cent of the active users at the libraries affected by these plans already use other libraries."

A further protest is due to be held outside Luton Central Library on Thursday at 12pm.



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# Schoolgirl Jessica sees her charity 'acorn' grow

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

A GENEROUS eight-year-old has donated more than £1,000 to her Barton school after setting up her own charity.

Schoolgirl Jessica Frost started 'Jessica's Acorn' last year to help raise awareness about disabilities and autism, after her brother was diagnosed with the condition.

Twelve months on, the youngster has donated half of the money collected to Ramsey Manor Lower School's, Gold Class, which provides support for children with autism.

The donated £1,133.60, which was handed over to headteacher Mrs Freaks and Mrs Dwyer in an assembly this week, will be spent on special desks for the students.

The money has been raised with events including coffee mornings and jumble sales, while Ramsey Manor allowed penny pots to be put in their classrooms so spare change could be donated by pupils.

The remaining £1,000 the charity has received will be saved to help fund Jessica's ultimate dream – to open a centre for children with special needs.

**DONATION:** Jessica Frost presents a cheque to Mrs Dwyer and headteacher Mrs Freaks at Ramsey Manor Lower School



Jessica's grandmother, Linda Notschild, said: "She is a very determined and generous girl."

"We are very proud of what she has achieved and want to say thank you to everyone in Barton village who has helped this year. Everyone has been very supportive."

"Jessica was aware that lots of people give money to charity already, but thought that if people were willing to donate their spare change it would eventually grow into a large amount

– like an acorn into an oak tree."

"We know that is a big dream, but if we keep collecting our pennies, one day we will be able to afford our oak tree."

"We hope that this year will be equally successful and that we can donate a similar amount to another local good cause next year as well as collecting more for the centre."

For more information or to find out how you can help Jessica's Acorn, visit [www.jessicasacorn.org](http://www.jessicasacorn.org).

## Pop star Harry visits 'special' Keech

PATIENTS at Keech Hospice Care were delighted when McFly drummer Harry Judd arrived for a surprise visit last weekend.

The pop star had heard all about the Luton-based facility from two-year-old Oliver Merchant, son of old friends Tilly and Matthew Merchant.

Harry made the visit with his wife Izzy Johnston, and the pair spent lots of time talking to families and children.

Following the visit, the musician said: "Keech is a really special place and I'm so glad we got to see a little bit of the vital work they do."



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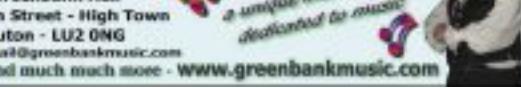
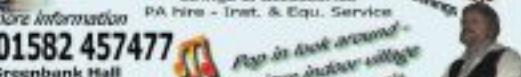
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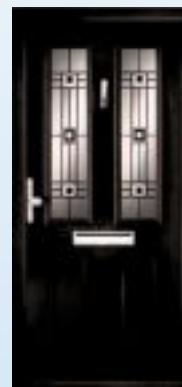
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# People smuggler 'ringleader' jailed

BY LAUREN ARCHELL  
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk



**JAILED:** Sudharsan Jeyakodi

A MAN from Luton, who has been described as the 'ringleader' of a people smuggling gang, has been jailed.

Sudharsan Jeyakodi, 37, of Bradley Road, was sentenced to five years and four months in prison, for his role in a criminal gang that smuggled Sri Lankans into the UK from France.

The group, who were made up of four Sri Lankans and one British national, helped Sri Lankan illegal immigrants attempting to reach the UK by smuggling them in vehicles through the channel ports in France.

The court heard how the five men charged their Sri Lankan 'clients' around £4,500 each for the service. Many of the smuggling attempts were foiled by officers who discovered stowaways hiding in vehicles stopped at ports including Calais, Dunkerque, Coquelles and Dover.

Of those who reached the UK, some would also travel onwards from the UK to North America using falsified documents.

The gang were caught after an investigation supported by Kent Police, the National Crime Agency (NCA), Europol and French, German and Swiss law enforcement agencies.

On Wednesday at Maidstone crown court, Jeyakodi was sentenced.

His accomplices

Kamalanesan Kandiah, 39, Chubramanian Vignarajah, 42, British national Amarjit Mudhar, 46, and John Anes Soundaranayagam Uvais, 41, were jailed for five years, three years and four months, four years and eight months and five years respectively.

David Fairclough from the Home Office, said: "This international organised crime gang conspired to smuggle desperate people into the UK purely for their own financial gain.

"They were major players in bringing Sri Lankan nationals to the UK illegally but thanks to the co-operation of agencies across Europe they have been stopped.

"People smuggling is a serious crime, which preys on vulnerable people.

"This investigation demonstrates that we will stop at nothing to track down those responsible."

Anyone with information about suspected immigration abuse can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 anonymously or visit the Crimestoppers website.

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## Good Samaritan is knifed

A GOOD Samaritan has been left with severe facial injuries following an 'appalling attack' in broad daylight in Dunstable.

The 35-year-old victim was in the residential parking area in Southwood Road on Thursday (January 23) at around 1pm, when he witnessed a woman being assaulted by another man.

He intervened and a struggle took place. During this, the man used a knife to slash the victim several times across the face and head before biting him twice on the nose.

The attacker, who is described as a white man of Mediterranean or Arab appearance and was wearing a dark baseball cap, green

jacket and blue jeans, then got in a car and drove away.

Investigating officer Det Con Khajavelidze said: "This was an appalling attack which was carried out in broad daylight, and I hope that somebody is able to come forward to help us."

Anyone with information should call Bedfordshire Police on 101.



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# 'Someone will be hurt on this road'

BY LAUREN ARCHELL  
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

AN angry motorist is calling on more to be done to enforce a one-way road system in Dunstable – after his car was hit four times in one year by drivers going the wrong way.

The driver, who we have agreed not to name, says the problem with Tavistock Street has become so bad that his insurers are now refusing to cover his vehicle.

The Dunstable resident has to drive down the one-way road to get to his nearby home.

But other motorists are defying the system, causing a number of crashes on the road's blind bend – leaving the law-abiding drivers out of pocket.

He said: "Something needs to be done in Tavistock Street, because the 'no entry' signs are clearly not enough."

"I can no longer afford to pay for the damage to my car, and my insurance company are refusing to cover me anymore as there have been so many incidents – and I'm not the only one this has happened to."

"It doesn't matter how



**NO-GO:** Signage clearly shows the road is one way, but one driver has been hit four times by motorists going the wrong way (inset)

slowly you drive around the road, if a car is coming round that corner in the opposite direction, you have no chance."

"I have complained to Central Bedfordshire Council and asked if they could put a camera up in the road to catch the drivers, but they said they can't deal with enforcement."

"I feel like I'm being ignored and that no-one will take me seriously until someone gets

hurt. I travel with my young daughter in my car, so I can't sit back and wait for that to happen."

We contacted Central Bedfordshire Council on Wednesday to ask if they were aware of this issue and what could be done, but they were unable to respond by our deadline of Friday evening.

- Have you seen drivers going the wrong way up Tavistock Street in Dunstable? Let us know.

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## Time Team's Alex meets students

STUDENTS at Luton Sixth Form College delved into the past with the help of an archaeologist and TV star, Alex Langlands.

The Time Team presenter gave a talk to A Level archaeology students about his career and then conducted a question-and-answer session.

Mr Langlands said: "They were a brilliant group and it was good chatting to them. The students asked question after question – and they were good, incisive questions."

# Note is found after death of man at lake

BY JAMES AVERILL  
[editor@lutononsunday.co.uk](mailto:editor@lutononsunday.co.uk)

A LUTON man who was found dead in Willen Lake in Milton Keynes had left a note in his hotel room saying 'must test life jacket'.

An inquest that opened on Wednesday at Milton Keynes Coroner's Court heard that paramedics discovered the body of 55-year-old cleaner Steven Rosario.

Mr Rosario, of Poplar Avenue, Luton, had been staying at the Premier Inn on

Brickhill Street, and was due to book out on January 20.

The hotel called police concerned that he was missing, and when officers entered his room they found a host of personal items including an empty life jacket container, and with it discovered a note saying 'must test life jacket'.

The court heard how Mr Rosario was hoping sell his property and get a dingy for his retirement, and that he had stayed in a number of hotels near lakes in the area.

CCTV images had shown

him leaving the Premier Inn at 5.50pm on January 20, and a police helicopter identified a body in a yellow life jacket in the lake the next day.

Mr Rosario was confirmed dead at 3.01pm on January 21, and was taken to Milton Keynes Hospital where he was identified by a cousin.

Coroner Tom Osborne heard that police were satisfied no-one else was involved in Mr Rosario's death and that a post-mortem had been held.

Mr Osborne set a date of May 20 for the full inquest.

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# yourletters

## Fears revealed over the total Busway cost

SIR – It seems Luton Labour Party members are in need of a primary school course in basic arithmetic.

A leaflet they are currently circulating says the contribution of Luton residents towards the cost of the Luton-Dunstable busway is 37 pence per head.

Even if they mean 37p for every single adult and child the simple multiplication of 37p by 200,000 people comes to £74,000 whilst the latest update to the Council's Scrutiny Board says the shortfall to be found by Luton and Central Beds Council tax payers is £6m.

Worse still, the £6m shortfall does not include any over spend on the £89.2m budget?

The busway is now complete but the haggling with the contractor over the cost is not and could go on for some time yet so they still don't know how much it has cost.

They also conveniently forget to remind us of their assurances that



**CONFUSION:** It has been claimed the council don't know how much the busway cost

there would be no day to day running costs of the system because the bus companies were going to pay to use it.

The truth is that, as most sane people predicted at the time, the bus companies have refused to pay.

The result is a "provision" of £400,000 a year in the budget estimates of the two

councils for maintenance and cleaning.

The latest update to the council's Scrutiny Board says this may not be enough.

With the council set to agree a budget for the 2014-15 financial year in February we should all be relieved that the budget is put together by council finance

officers who do understand the arithmetic even if they do so under political guidance from Labour councillors who clearly do not.

Cllr. David Franks, Liberal Democrat leader of the Opposition.

Labour Party spokesperson Francis Steer replies: "It seems that

Lib Dem Cllr Franks is in need of some memory training.

Under Labour, the cost of constructing the busway has consistently been funded by using money contributed by others – like the Tory Lib Dem government.

The only cash taken from Luton's own coffers for the busway was the £60K spent by Cllr Franks when he together with the Tories ran the council.

This divided among the then, smaller (according to Office of National Statistics) population was about 37p per person.

Actual maintenance costs, currently predicted as £50K for this year, are expected to be well below that estimate. This attack on investment in our town from Cllr Franks is very predictable, he objects to anything that benefits Luton – be it new roads, Olympic swimming pools, employment, or housing.

We have little hope that he will improve."

## Ron fights back

SIR – It looks like Luton Labour Party is a tad rattled. Last week my frequent letters to local newspapers provoked responses from no less than SIX readers. Yes, SIX in one week.

Of course, I was very flattered by this attention but I couldn't help wondering if there had been some sort of collusion. I was suspicious because most responses I receive are supportive but all of these were quite the reverse. In fact they were even a bit rude. Also they had all appeared in the same week.

So I did some research. What do you know?

ALL SIX correspondents turned out to be local Labour party activists.

Well now, what a coincidence. Of course, I was even more flattered now.

Could it be that my letters are causing major irritation to certain people at the big house in LU1 or even in Union Street? Are they so worried at the constant attention I give to the embarrassing antics of their councillors and their very own Labour-sponsored police commissioner that they feel it necessary to mount a concerted attack on me?

Oh yes, they were all personal attacks – not one attempted to take issue with anything I'd said. But I guess that's politicians for you.

Don't they appreciate my highlighting their trite, misleading and often downright untrue statements? Or their incompetence, cronyism or total inability to exercise any joined-up thinking?

Shame on them. I'm only trying to help. Please keep your letters coming folks, but in future might I suggest that you have the honesty (or should I say 'courage') to add after your names 'Member of Luton Labour Party'?

Ron Turvey,  
Stanmore Crescent, Luton

## Name of tax is wrong

SIR – Councillors in Luton are wrong to describe EU suggestion for a financial transaction tax as a 'Robin Hood' proposal.

The truth is such a tax is much more of a 'Sheriff of Nottingham' policy. History tells us that when financial transactions are taxed the financiers themselves move to other parts of the globe.

Those who pay the tax are those who can't move; pensioners who face lower pension income, real businesses who see additional costs, each of us when our insurance premiums rise, and public authorities.

The EU's own assessment said this tax would reduce GDP by over one percent. By contrast the current UK government's bank levy is bringing over £2billion

each year into our public purse and is used to fund crucial public services.

The last Labour government layered tax upon tax onto the least well off in our society. Let's not allow them to do so again.

Vicky Ford,  
Conservative Party

## Preserve woodland

SIR – Owen Paterson, the national Environment Secretary, seems increasingly to regard his ecological illiteracy as a badge of pride. The latest example is his suggestion that destruction of ancient woodland could be 'offset' by planting new trees in its stead.

But ancient woodland, by definition, has been in existence since at least 1600. New planting could not possibly replicate the rich diversity of life which has grown up over centuries in our treasured local ancient woodlands of for instance King's and Baker's wood. Near an urban area such as Luton, it is especially important to preserve any remaining ancient wood, for obvious reasons.

The percentage of land in this country and in this county that is ancient woodland is so low that we can't afford to lose any.

In Bedfordshire it is around just one per cent. Our Government's obsession with growth at any cost cannot be

permitted to destroy nature's final surviving Bedfordshire 'crown jewels'.

It is the Greens that have now taken up the mantle of preserving our countryside. If I am elected as your Green MEP this year, I will be doing everything I can to make sure that the powers of the EU are a force for good in nature conservation. That means preserving our remaining ancient woodlands.

Dr. Rupert Read  
Lead Green Party MEP candidate in the East of England for the European elections

## Support the RAF fund

SIR – As we all struggle to maintain our new year's resolutions to get fit, I thought I'd share news of an event organised for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The 'maRAFon' will see elderly, injured and disabled RAF veterans and their families, friends and supporters, including myself, running, walking or rolling their own distance, to be collected into a single grand total over the Easter weekend.

It's a great way for young and old, disabled and able-bodied, fit and unfit to come together and have fun while raising money to support those who give, or have given, service to this country.

Sign up at [www.rafbf.org/marathon](http://www.rafbf.org/marathon)  
Sir Terry Wogan



Your comments on the stories on our website this week:

## Leon's Law backed

@collyeates: Its an infringement of my civil rights and rights to privacy to record every conversation - rules must be far more specific

@LutonEye: Fine for uniformed front line cops - totally impractical for everything else.

@JU5TLAW: great article LoS #welldone

## Councillor resigns

@lutonexcelsior: Robin needs to clarify who the bullies are, plus what underhandedness has taken place.

@andyc\_128: maybe one of our self-appointed "voices of the people" letter-writers might put themselves forward for election?

## Duck visits college

@SecondaryCEIAG: Never let it be said you don't spend time investigating and uncovering the hard hitting education stories in the town

@christofflennon: Oh, but this is a quacking story, you have to say!!!

## Bogus police officers

@markln: The first clue they were fake should have been the Merc. A 5 year old astra with 150,000 on the clock maybe.

## Big Dave's challenge

@BigDaveRedmond: Many thanks to Lauren Archell for her featured article in the @LutonOnSunday about Big Dave's Little Stroll 2014

## Robin Hood tax

@amy\_le\_rose: Happy to see the council's backing of the Robin Hood tax written up in the @LutonOnSunday

## Our most read online

- Lewsey Park latest: 15-year-old pleads not guilty to attempted murder and rape

- West Ham youngster Pelly Ruddock and Swansea City star Jernade Meade join Luton Town

- Redbourn woman raped after being picked up at Luton & Dunstable hospital by bogus taxi driver

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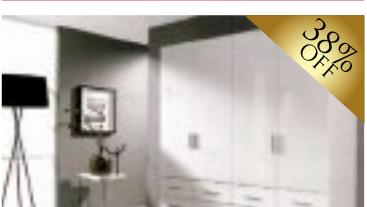
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# announcements

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## Deaths

**JEFFERSON** John Robert .Of Cockernhoe, Luton, sadly passed away on 23rd January 2014, aged 84 years. Funeral service at Luton Crematorium at 10:30 am on Thursday 6th February 2014. Flowers welcome. Any enquiries to Neville Funeral Service Limited, Neville House, Marsh Road, LU3 2RZ. Tel: 01582 490005

## Deaths

**WOOD** Luke .Of Luton, sadly passed away on 23rd January 2014. Funeral service at St Thomas' Church, Luton at 11.30am on Tuesday 4th February 2014. Burial by interment in the Vale Cemetery. Family flowers only, but if desired donations for The Bobath Centre may be sent via [www.memorygiving.com/lukewood](http://www.memorygiving.com/lukewood). The family have requested that those attending are to wear green if possible, or colours other than black. All enquiries to Neville Funeral Service Limited, Neville House, Marsh Road, LU3 2RZ. Tel: 01582 490005

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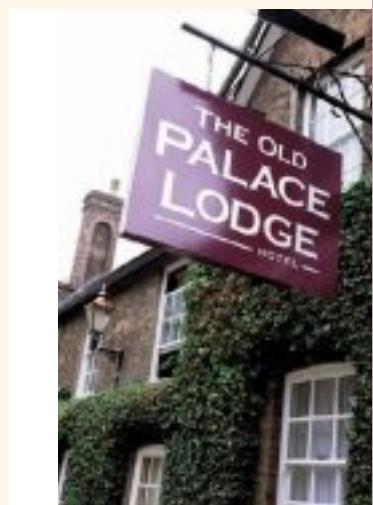
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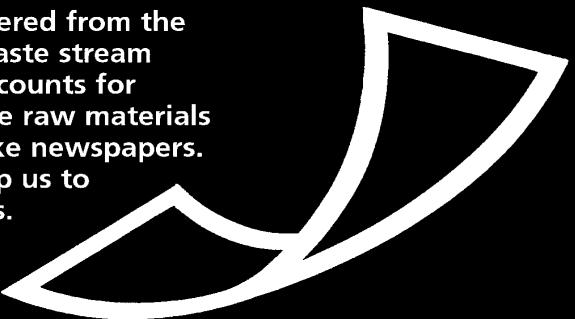
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Issued by the Newsprint & Newspaper Industry Environmental Action Group

# Tougher action on van parking issue

BY CARL MUNGABI

[lutononsunday.co.uk](http://lutononsunday.co.uk)

LUTON council have said they have introduced tougher parking enforcement following complaints by business owners.

Firms in Kimpton Road said vans and trucks with foreign number plates have been parking along the road for up to two to three days at time.

They claim drivers have been living in the vehicles and cooking on the road side, as well as using it as a toilet.

Kimpton Road has bays which allow two hours of free parking on one side and double yellow lines on the other.

One business owner, who did not wish to be named, said the vehicles were pre-



Business owners said customers found it hard to find parking places

venting customers from finding parking spots.

He said: "We call the traffic wardens but the people have got wise to it so they just go away for a little while. They cook up there and they even go to the toilet there. There's nothing that can be done

about it because they can park up there for two hours."

A council spokesman said it had arranged 'further parking enforcement visits' to Kimpton Road but could not take action against drivers who moved their vehicles when traffic wardens visited.

## Figures show increase in people taking exercise

A SURVEY by Sport England has revealed that the number of adults taking part in regular sport or physical activity in the town is at its highest level since 2006.

The percentage of residents aged 16 and over participating in

at least 30 minutes of sport, or active recreation three or more times a week, has increased from 15 to 21 per cent in the last year.

Further analysis of the data also showed that more males than females participating were

regularly taking part in sport and physical activity.

Councillor Hazel Simmons, leader of Luton council, said the findings demonstrated a 'remarkable turnaround in people taking part in regular exercise'.

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# Luton Hoo history under the hammer

### GOING, going, gone!

This week a one-off auction at Cheffins in Cambridge gave bidders the chance to take home a real slice of Luton Hoo's history.

Titled 'The End of an Era', the special sale included items from the interior of the grand house, including marble columns, and card tables.

Many of the lots date back to 1903, when royal advisor Sir Julius Charles Wernher purchased the house. He commissioned Parisian decorator Georges

Hoentschel to lavishly redesign the interiors of Luton Hoo, who in turn appointed Mewes and Davies, the architects of the Ritz Hotel in London.

After Sir Julius's death in 1912, his son Harold

Wernher inherited the estate and went on to marry the last Tsar of Russia, known later as Lady Zia Wernher. The marriage heralded a further contribution of wealth, glamour and social events.

Thursday's auction of luxurious items was a huge success, with international interest from many phone bidders. A pair of 19th century Chinese fish bowls sold for £36,000, a George II mahogany centre table, made £40,000 and a pair of large wrought iron and gilded gates made £22,000.

Edward Phillips, Estate Director at Luton Hoo was very pleased with the sale, saying: "It was wonderful to see these pieces appreciated and desired by others."



**GRAND:** The world famous Luton Hoo estate

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**HISTORY:** All the items came from Luton Hoo, which was once owned by Sir Harold and Lady Zia Wernher, pictured with Winston Churchill. Lots included Chinese fish bowls and this mahogany table



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# Work to start on £46m Uni library

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

ONE of the largest construction companies in the UK, Willmott Dixon, has been awarded a design and build contract to construct the University of Bedfordshire's new library building in Luton.



DEVELOPMENT: The new library

Spread over seven floors, the iconic £46m building will become a landmark in the town centre incorporating 7,400 sq metres of space, connecting to the rest of the University's Luton campus via a bridge link.

The University's Vice Chancellor, Bill Rammell, said: "The appointment of Willmott Dixon to build our new library is great news.

"The fantastic new facility

resources and flexible study space."

Chris Tredgett, Managing Director at Willmott Dixon, added: "We are delighted to be involved and look forward to delivering this superb new library for the University of Bedfordshire.

"As a local company, with an office in nearby Hitchin, Herts, and staff living across Bedfordshire, we are naturally very proud to be responsible for an important addition to our community."

The latest development forms part of the university's plans to invest £90million at the Luton campus over the next five years. Building works will commence this month, with completion expected in summer 2015.

will further enhance the students' learning experience, offering the latest digital learning technologies, an expanded space for print

## Book your place on a free course for young drivers

YOUNG motorists are being encouraged to improve their driving skills, as part of an initiative to reduce road casualties.

Places are now open for MORE 16 and MORE Drive courses on Sunday, March 9th. The courses

are available on a first come, first served basis on receipt of a completed application form, which can be requested by email: [roadsafety@amey.co.uk](mailto:roadsafety@amey.co.uk).

MORE 16 is designed to give 16-year-olds their first experience

of driving, while MORE Drive offers 17 to 24 year-olds, who have already passed their driving test, the chance to drive on a skid pan and practice emergency stops at speed to demonstrate varying stopping distances.

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# Recognition for high standard at Vauxhall

BY LAUREN ARCHELL  
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

VAUXHALL Luton, the UK's most productive van plant, is the first facility in Europe to achieve a top manufacturing benchmark.

The Built in Quality (BIQ) Level 4 honour has been awarded to the plant in recognition of its world class quality control standards.

Out of 396 General Motors facilities worldwide, Luton is one of only three vehicle manufacturing sites to be awarded this honour.

Auditors visited the plant last year to check its progress against a check list of 95 different items affecting the quality of the vans.



**CELEBRATION:** Staff at Vauxhall Luton after receiving the honour

Duncan Aldred, Vauxhall's Chairman and Managing Director said: "We are delighted Vauxhall Luton has been honoured for its excellent work on quality control and assurance.

"This award recognises the

commitment that the Vauxhall Luton team put in to building the Vivaro van."

Vauxhall is the UK's number one manufacturer, building over 44,000 vans in the UK last year, all of which were produced at Luton.

## Knife-wielding robbers steal a packet of cigarettes

A 28-YEAR-OLD man was robbed at knife-point as he made his way to work.

The man was walking through Manor Park in Luton at around 5.20am on Saturday, January 25, when he

was approached by three men who asked if he had a cigarette.

When he said no, two of them grabbed him and pinned him to the floor while the other threatened him with a blade, before stealing

a packet of cigarettes. The group then fled and the 28-year-old made his way home where he contacted the police.

The man who was armed with the knife is described as being

white, 20 to 25-years-old, around 6ft tall, and wearing a black puffer jacket and black jeans.

Anyone with information should call Bedfordshire Police on 101.

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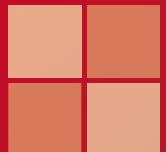
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INSPIRATIONAL: Headteacher Catherine Cassidy

## Tributes paid to committed head

ST MARGARET of Scotland Primary School is mourning the passing of its popular headteacher Catherine Cassidy after a two year illness.

Although she led the Luton school for just three years, she made a lasting impression on the children in her care. Chair of Governors Loretta Danaher said: "Catherine was an inspirational leader."

"Her legacy will be that we continue to take the school to where she wanted it to be."

# Plans for talks over proposed closures

BY CARL MUNGIZI

[carl.mungizi@lutononsunday.co.uk](mailto:carl.mungizi@lutononsunday.co.uk)

**THE potential closure of three Dunstable middle schools is set to be discussed at a meeting this week.**

Central Bedfordshire Council is considering holding a public consultation on plans for Ashton, Brewers Hill and Streetfield middle schools.

It will present a report during a meeting on Tuesday outlining its reasons for consulting on possible closures.

The council said pupil numbers at each of the schools have been falling significantly as a result of changes to the education system in Dunstable.

However, some local residents have criticised the proposals. Danielle Hoy, 24, head of the 'Save Our Middle Schools' campaign said the council needed to be more open about its plans.

She said: "I think they have been very sneaky and underhand. They could be a lot more open about the plans."

Councillor Mark Versallion, said: "There have been lots of changes taking place in Dunstable and Houghton Regis schools this last year and many have taken advantage of greater powers given to them by Government to change their school, in response to parental demand. "I understand the concern and uncertainty that these proposals may cause.

"I want to be as open as possible about this proposal and make sure that all those affected are informed."

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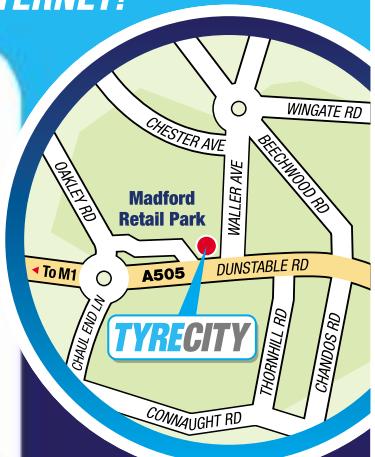
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# There is still time to enter Retail Factor!

BY LAUREN ARCHELL  
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

ARE you a small company looking to boost your business? The Mall, Luton is calling upon all budding entrepreneurs to expand their current business and take it to the next level with their eighth annual Retail Factor competition.

Whether you're a 'mumpreneur' looking for a platform to showcase your business or rising young professional who would benefit from the experience, this opportunity is open to all.

The competition provides small businesses, both start up and established, with the chance to trade rent free from The Mall Luton for a three week period.

All businesses which don't already have a permanent presence are invited to apply. A unique initiative, the Retail Factor gives small and start-up businesses the opportunity to grow your business, offering access to sought after High Street space in The Mall.

This allows you to trial physical retail, without incurring a long term finan-



OPPORTUNITY: Last year's winner Anne-Marie Paterson of Little Baby Boutique with Mark Broadhead, General Manager of The Mall

will also be entered into a nationwide competition with winners from the other Mall shopping centres for a chance to win a cash contribution towards stock, business mentoring from an industry entrepreneur and a place at the prestigious Oxford Summer School.

Enter online today and a panel of judges will assess the entrepreneurs on their commercial viability, originality, market appeal and development potential.

Shortlisted finalists will be invited to pitch their idea in person.

The local winner will trade rent free for three weeks and

Businesses interested in applying should fill out a simple application form on [themall.co.uk/retailfactor](http://themall.co.uk/retailfactor) by Sunday, February 23.

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BEEFEATER	8.10	10.40	14.50
CHICKEN SUPREME	8.60	10.90	14.80
VEGETARIAN	8.60	10.90	14.80
PEPPERONI FEAST	8.40	10.60	14.60
MEAT FEAST	8.60	10.90	14.80
MEXICAN HOT	8.70	11.10	14.90
PIZZA DIRECT SPECIAL	8.80	11.90	15.50
<b>CREATE YOUR OWN</b>	8.80	11.90	15.50
any 4 toppings			
Using cheese & tomato base and your choice of toppings from these:			
Cheese, tuna, prawns, chicken tikka, chinese chicken, turkey ham, pepperoni (sub), onions, mushrooms, green peppers, sweetcorn, green chillies, fresh tomato slices, pineapple, keema (mince lamb), jalapenos			
<b>EXTRA TOPPING</b>	0.75	0.85	0.95

PERI PERI BASE or BBQ BASE £1.00 EXTRA

**BURGERS/WRAPs**

	Own	Free Drink
CHICKEN FILLET BURGER	£2.50	£3.49
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1/4 POUNDER BURGER	£3.50	£4.49
1/2 POUNDER BURGER	£1.70	£2.69
CHEESE BURGER	£2.50	£3.69
DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER	£2.00	£3.00
VEGGIE BURGER	£2.00	£3.00
BEAN BURGER	£2.00	£3.00
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VEGGIE WRAP	£2.00	£3.00
FISH BURGER	£2.00	£3.00
DONER BURGER	£2.00	£3.00

Add Extra Cheese for 20p  
ADD EGG FOR 30p

**KEBABS**

	Reg	Lrg
Chicken Tikka Roll	£3.70	£4.20
Seekh Kebab Roll	£3.50	£4.00
Doner Kebab	£3.50	£4.00
Meat & Chips	£2.50	£3.50
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Seekh Kebab Portion	£1.80	£2.00
Portion Doner		

Add 50p for Naan Bread

**KIDS MEALS** All served with regular fries + drink

1 Chicken Drumstick	£2.50	
4 Nuggets	£2.50	
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**DESSERTS**

Chocolate Fudge Cake	£1.80
Cheese Cake	£1.80
Hot Apple Pie	£1.00
Ben & Jerry Ice Cream (Various Flavours)	£4.99

**DRINKS**

All Cans	£0.70
Large Bottle of Drink	£1.80

**SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN**

1 pc Chicken	£1.10
1 pc Chicken & Fries	£1.90
2 pcs Chicken & Fries	£2.90
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**DESSERTS**

Chocolate Fudge Cake	£1.80
Cheese Cake	£1.80
Hot Apple Pie	£1.00
Ben & Jerry Ice Cream (Various Flavours)	£4.99

**DRINKS**

All Cans	£0.70
Large Bottle of Drink	£1.80

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# Pupils are learning skills with LEGO!

PUPILS at Someries Junior School have been getting technical with LEGO pieces following their appearance at a robot contest last year. The Year 6 pupils appeared at the regional LEGO league tournament, a contest designed to test their science and technical skills.

Every Thursday after school pupils tinker with robots and hone their craft.

And now last year's team are passing on their skills to their peers as they spread their love of LEGO.

Kathleen McKinley, a Year 6 teacher started the club six

years ago with equipment donated by Ashcroft High School.

She said: "The club allows some of the children that are maybe not as good on the academic side to work on their engineering and technical skills. It's really helped some of the pupils and it's also about teaching them about teamwork."



Year Six pupils are now teaching their fellow pupils how to build the LEGO robots

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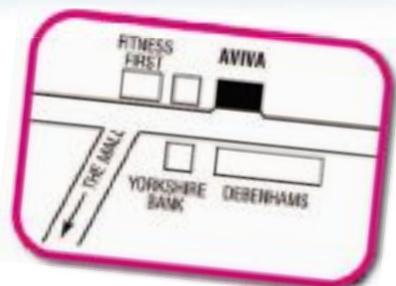
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[www.lutonculture.com](http://www.lutonculture.com)

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# Nominate local sporting stars!

THE annual Luton Sports Awards are back!  
Find out more about the event and how  
to make your nominations right here...

DO you know a dedicated young sports star who puts in the hours to reach the top of their game? Or how about a special coach, who knows how to get the very best from their team?

Then why not nominate them to be recognised for their success in 2013 at the Luton Sports Awards – an annual awards ceremony presented by the Luton Sports Network and supported by Luton Borough Council and *Luton on Sunday*.

The Luton Sports Network has been established for over 30 years and is a voluntary body, which promotes and encourages sport and

physical activity within the town.

Nominations for this year's awards will be accepted from anyone, including members of the nominee's family or club. However, please ensure that full details and information about the individual or team are put on the nomination form at the time of entry, as the judges decisions will be

based entirely upon this and no supplementary information will be considered.

Luton Sports Network will accept nominations for sports people, teams or clubs who reside in the borough or whose home team or club venue is located within the town.

The nomination will have to prove that the individual

## ANNUAL LUTON SPORTS AWARDS: CATEGORIES

- Sports Man of the Year	Year	- Young volunteer	from the nominations and by the Luton Sports Network)
- Sports Woman of the Year	- Young Sports Team of the Year	- Sports administrator or official of the Year	- Geoff Battlebury Award for Service to Sport (Nominated by the Luton Sports Network)
- Young Sports Man of the Year	- Sports Club of the Year	- Sports Coach of the Year	
- Young Sports Woman of the Year	- Club member of the Year	- Service to Sport Awards (Over 20 years and identified	
- Sports Team of the Year	- Contribution to disabled sport		



**CELEBRATION:** Young Sports Man of the Year for 2012, talented gymnast Elliott Browne

or team has achieved outstanding performances, shown outstanding ability or major improvement in their sport, given service to sport or promoted sport or influenced members of the community to take up sport.

The nomination form, which can be found at [www.lutonsportsnetwork.co.uk](http://www.lutonsportsnetwork.co.uk)

should be returned by Monday, February 10.

The form can be sent to Luton Sports Awards, c/o Active Luton, Wigmore Hall, Eaton Green Road, Luton LU2 9JB, or emailed to [c.robins@sky.com](mailto:c.robins@sky.com).

The results will be announced at the Luton Sports Network Presentation

Evening on Thursday, March 27 at Venue 360 in Gipsy Lane, Luton.

Guest of honour on the night will be Casey Stoney, current England women's football captain. Further information and ticket details available from the Luton Sports Network website.

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# Thinking about adoption?

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Wednesday 5th February

Starting at 6.30pm ending at 8.00pm

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**www.sfcs.org.uk** email: [enquiries@sfcs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sfcs.org.uk)

Venue: St Francis' Children's Society, Collis House, 48 Newport Road, Woolstone, Milton Keynes MK15 0AA.



VISIT: The duck caused a stir at the college this week

## Duck drops in at town's college

A COLLEGE entertained an unusual guest this week after it was visited by a duck.

The creature – a domestic Muscovy duck – was found loitering on Tuesday along the main boulevard at the Luton Sixth Form College.

The duck's presence generated interest on social media as students passed their comments on Twitter.

Staff tried to catch the animal but were unsuccessful and it flew away.

# Bogus taxi driver is hunted after attack

BY JULIA SUTTON

[editor@lutononsunday.co.uk](mailto:editor@lutononsunday.co.uk)

A WOMAN has been raped after being picked up outside a hospital by what she believed was a taxi.

The assault took place on January 14 when the driver took her to her home in Redbourne after picking her up from the Luton & Dunstable Hospital.

He went into her property in at around 8.30pm and assaulted her. Hertfordshire Police said he

was driving a shiny black four-door car.

The suspect is also said to be a white man aged in his early to mid-30s, 5ft 10ins and of slim build.

He had short hair and was wearing a black jacket which had a yellow Ferrari emblem on the shoulder.

Detective Constable Annette Sims said: "I would appeal to members of the public in the area of the hospital who saw a car and driver matching the description above to contact me with any

information.

"I would also be keen to hear from anyone who saw a car similar to this at any petrol stations in the area to contact police.

"This is a highly unusual incident however, I would like to take this opportunity to remind members of the public that if they are using a taxi to ensure that it is licensed."

Anyone with information can contact DC Sims on 01707 355071. You can also contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

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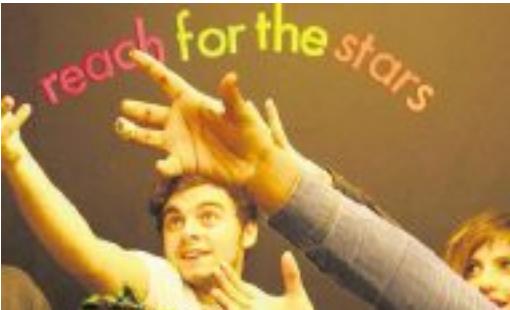
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Departs Apr & May 2014,  
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This very special cruise takes in the glorious Dutch countryside famously ablaze with the colours of spring, and includes the canals and cobblestones of Amsterdam, historic Rotterdam, and picturesque towns and villages.

#### Price includes

- Return coach travel
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- Windmills & Waterways
- English commentary
- Entertainment
- The services of a Tour Manager

### The Rhine in Flames

Departs 8 August 2014

Dating back centuries when small villages fired cannons in honour of local government events, the 'Rhine in Flames' celebrations have grown into a massive firework spectacular launched from the hillsides. Our super itinerary includes three nights' bed and breakfast accommodation and a visit to Cochem in the Moselle Valley plus two optional excursions.

#### Price includes

- Return coach travel
- Return Channel crossings
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast accommodation in a selected hotel in the Rhine or Moselle Valley area
- A visit to Cochem
- A visit to Koblenz including the Rhine in Flames Firework Display
- The services of a Tour Manager

# School's exam marks praised by minister

CARL MUNGAZI

carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

LEALANDS High School has become one of the top 100 secondary schools in England for improved GCSE results over the last three years.

Headteacher John Burridge received a letter from the Minister of State for Schools, David Laws MP, congratulating staff, governors, and pupils on the school's improvement following publication of results league tables last week.

The letter said the school was 'one of the top 100 in England showing the greatest sustained improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A\*-C



TOP 100: Lealands wins praise for its improved GCSE exam results

grade GCSEs, including English and Maths'.

Mr Laws also wrote: "I would like to offer my thanks to you and all at your school for your pursuit of the highest standards of educational

achievement." Mr Burridge said he was pleased with the letter and that it had given the school 'lots to celebrate as we continue on our journey of excellence together'.

## Six Nations TV warning for town's pubs and clubs

PUBS and clubs in the town have been sent a reminder about having the correct TV licences as the 2014 RBS Six Nations championship kicks off this weekend. Fines of up to £1,000 per offence plus costs

and court action could be taken against any pubs, clubs or sporting venues which show live TV with no licence.

TV Licensing said if a premises has living accommodation where a TV is also in use, it

must be covered by a separate licence.

A spokesman for the company said there were over 50 pubs within a two-mile radius of the town.

He added: "It's important pubs and

clubs are correctly licensed and we know landlords and managers want to stay within the law, which is why we are issuing this advice regarding the 2014 RBS 6 Nations tournament."

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#### Price includes

- Return coach travel
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- The services of a Tour Manager



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#### Price includes

- Return flights to Malaga direct from London Luton
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Wonderful optional Excursions: Cordoba (£43 per person), Ronda (£25 per person)



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### Battlefields of World War One

A fascinating journey re-tracing events of WW1 - Departs 6 June 2014

Visit the poignant sites, memorials and cemeteries of the Somme and Ypres Salient on this exceptional break. Understand the tragic events that unfolded resulting in WW1 and hear countless stories of personal bravery. With a knowledgeable guide on hand bringing to light what really happened, this promises to be a moving experience that you won't forget.

#### Price includes

- Return coach travel throughout
- Return channel crossings



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#### Price includes

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- The services of a Tour Manager

### Easter in the German Valleys

Departs 18 April 2014

A perfect springtime getaway to the glorious German Valleys! Breathtakingly beautiful, with winding rivers, fairytale castles, miles of vineyards and pretty riverside villages, it's an area just crying out to be explored. Welcoming accommodation and an exciting range of optional excursions will give a fantastic insight into this remarkable region.

#### Price includes

- Return coach travel from the local area
- Return Channel crossings
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast accommodation in a family run hotel in the Rhine or Moselle Valley area
- The services of a Tour Manager

Optional Excursions Also Available: Burghausen Castle and Cochem on Day Two and the Rhine Valley including a Rhine River Cruise on Day Three



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Departs 23 August 2014

### Monet's Garden & Paris

Visits to Impressionist painter Claude Monet's beautiful house and gardens in the Normandy village of Giverny, and to incomparable Paris, are amongst the wonderful highlights of this hugely popular escorted tour, which also offers the opportunity to discover exquisite artists' village Barbizon.

4 days from £179.50

Departs 23 May, 25 Jul, 15 Aug & 3 Oct 2014

### The 2014 Tour de France – in Paris

Join us for an exciting weekend in the French capital, culminating in the final kilometres of the 101st Tour de France, as those riders who have survived the most grueling three weeks in world sport arrive at the end of the race and contest the last leg-burning sprint finish in the shadow of the Arc de Triomphe.

4 days from £195.00

Departs 25 July 2014

### Best of the Bulbfields

A springtime visit to the famous Dutch Bulbfields is a never forgotten experience! This superb value break includes a visit to the famous Keukenhof Gardens where acres of daffodils, crocuses, narcissi and hyacinths carpet the ground in a riot of colour, together with visits to the delightful cities of Amsterdam and Bruges.

4 days from £219.00

Departs 13 & 24 April 2014

### Summertime in Bruges

Discover four of Belgium's most fascinating cities on this fantastic value summertime break! Famous for its quaint cobbled streets, picturesque canals and fine medieval architecture, we include a full-day to explore the exquisite 'Chocolate and Lace' city of Bruges. You'll also enjoy a visit to stylish Brussels, historic Antwerp & medieval Ghent.

4 days from £195.00

Departs 8 August 2014

### Holland in the Summertime

This excellent value break will introduce the many delights of this famously colourful country, bathed in the warmth of summer, and includes a full day fascinating capital Amsterdam, with its canals, cobblestones and café-bars, and visits to elegant Den Haag - The Hague - and fun-loving, sea-side-postcard-perfect resort Scheveningen.

5 days from £259.00

Departs 1 August 2014

### Paris & the Champagne Country

This wonderful value summertime break combines a day in the incomparable 'City of Light', the world's most romantic and alluring capital, with another in historic Reims, where the great cathedral was coronation seat of French kings down the ages, and which today is the capital of the world-renowned Champagne region.

4 days from £189.50

Departs 8 August 2014

### Brussels' Flower Carpet

If you've never seen the Brussels' Flower Carpet, you're in for a treat! Once every two years 800,000 fresh flowers are transformed into a magical tapestry in Brussels Grand Place. A unique and truly amazing sight, which can only be seen for three days! Make sure you don't miss out on this stunning break!

3 days from £149.50

Departs 15 August 2014

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# Help with changes to Housing Benefit

Working-age people living in social housing now receive Housing Benefit based on the number of people in their household and the size of their accommodation. **Pensioners are not affected by this change.**

This change helps families who live in overcrowded accommodation or on waiting lists to find a new home. People who rent from private landlords already get Housing Benefit in this way, and this makes it fair for everyone.

If you are affected, you should have heard from your council.

There is support to help you manage these changes, including:

- thinking about downsizing or 'home swapping' to a different sized property
- finding a job or increasing your hours can make you better off
- applying to your council for a Discretionary Housing Payment.



Find out more about all your options at [www.gov.uk/housing-benefit](http://www.gov.uk/housing-benefit) or talk to your council.

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Win tickets to see the  
Rat Pack Live show

onpage 38

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## Excitement grows as the evergreen phenomenon flies into MK Theatre

### MUSICAL

#### WICKED: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

Milton Keynes Theatre  
February 4-March 8

IT'S got its own Facebook account, a Twitter profile and millions of fans the world over. Now *Wicked: The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz*, is about to cast its magic spell over MK. JUDY RILEY chats with the two bewitching stars of the show about dreams come true, fancy dress... and skincare routines.

It's like something from a hit stage musical. 'Young hopeful sees West End show in its opening weeks and vows that one day she'll play the lead role.' Except this time it's for real.

EMILY TIERNEY, playing Glinda, saw the show when it first opened, eight years ago. "I thought, 'that's my dream show and my dream part. I'm going to play that part one day!'"

Lots of people have ambitions that are never realised but there must have been a little bit of magic – or maybe sorcery – in the air that day.

Just a few years later, on leaving drama school, Emily was cast in the show as a member of the ensemble. Then she landed the part that she always dreamed of playing.

"I went through four auditions with one big, final audition that included being filmed so that the producers in the States could decide whether I was right for it," she says. "It's such an iconic role and I was really chuffed to be considered. I was walking through Leicester Square one day and my agent called. She said 'you need to sit down', I said 'I can't, I'm in the middle of Leicester Square!' Then she told me I'd got it and I nearly fell down!"

That's when the work really kicked in for Emily. If you're doing eight shows a week on a twelve month tour and, on top of that, it's a massive part, you've got to be prepared.

"I took singing lessons and built up stamina. Vocally and physically I need to pace myself



WONDERFUL WORLD OF OZ: Emily Tierney and Nikki Davis Jones take to the stage as Glinda and Elphaba

and that's probably the most challenging thing – maintaining that stamina."

Emily is going to watch her step though. A couple of winters ago, while she was appearing in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Wizard of Oz, she slipped on the ice and broke her foot. "It was the worst time in my career," she says. "I was out of action for about 10 weeks with my foot in a cast."

And the best moment of her career so far? "Finding out I'm playing Glinda, my dream role, of course!"

Going green has taken on a whole new meaning for NIKKI DAVIS JONES.

As Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, she has to 'green' up six days a week. But Nikki took her first steps on the yellow brick road to Oz when she was very young.

"I was always dancing from the age of about three. Then, when I saw Starlight Express, it came to me in a blinding flash that it was what I wanted to do."

After three years at Laine Theatre Arts School in London "I was pretty much out of work for a

year" she recalls. "Eventually, I got into Blood Brothers in the West End. That was a turning point. I was understudying the part of Linda and then I played the part on tour.

"After that I got into Mamma Mia in the West End, understudying again – and then I got the part... there's clearly a pattern to my career; I'm obviously rubbish at auditions but then they see I'm actually ok!"

Nikki is very ok as Elphaba but even she has had to deal with the odd embarrassing moment on stage. "I'm quite forgetful and sometimes I do drop lines and speak total gobbledegook. It's awful."

So, Nikki, quick Q&A time:  
If you're invited to a fancy dress party who do you go as?

"Well, absolutely not Elphaba! I confess that I do have a Princess Leia outfit. Not the gold bikini!! It's the white dress..."

What's it like having to wear green make-up every day? How long does it take to put on and to get off and does it take its toll on your skin?

"It takes 20 minutes for it to be put on and half an hour to get it off. It's put on my face, neck and hands and because it's water-based, it doesn't get into my pores. But I do get to have a facial once a week. There's quite often traces of it left on my body when I leave the theatre but I've been doing quite a lot of swimming lately and the chlorine in the water is a great way to get it off!"

Lots of people have seen the show in London, some of those will come along and see it again in Milton Keynes, will they notice much difference in the productions?

"Of course there are tiny changes, you can't have everything, but some, I think have been for the better. They are so clever with what they've done."

And for anyone who hasn't yet seen it?

"If you enjoyed the Wizard of Oz, you're going to absolutely love Wicked! The music is incredible, it's funny, it's all about friendship and the special effects are amazing!"

Sounds pretty wicked to me.

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## THEATRE

**The Grove Theatre**  
March 20, 7.30pm

GET ready for an evening of magic, laughter and foolery Shakespearian-style at the Grove Theatre next month.

Following their five star-rated, sell-out production of Measure for Measure, Off West End-nominated Immersion Theatre are embarking on their first UK tour with their own take on one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Immersion Theatre is renowned for making the words of Shakespeare accessible to modern day audiences, and it tries to place audiences at the heart of every production.

Set in Great Britain just before the start of the Great War, this adaptation sees these fantastical characters transported to a time of unparalleled peace and prosperity.

Four young lovers, a band of hapless actors, and a magical realm populated by enchanting spirits set on causing mischief and mayhem at every turn, culminate in an evening of beauty and hilarity.

This adaptation of A Midsummer Night's Dream is directed by James Tobias, a rising star within the theatre circuit.

He has been praised for his five star-rated adaptations of Taming of the Shrew, Measure for Measure, and award-nominated Julius Caesar.

This is a chance to come and experience his new adaptation of one of Shakespeare's most hilarious comedies?

Normal tickets are £14 and £10 for students. Call 01582 602080 to book.



# Win tickets to see Rat Pack

## MUSIC

**The Grove Theatre**  
April 12, 2014, 7.30pm

**THE trio of Sammy Davis Jnr, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra were the definition of cool during the Fifties and Sixties, and their Las Vegas showbar appearances were legendary.**

At the time, the city was gripped with anticipation whenever the Rat Pack played at 'the entertainment capital of the world'.

Backed by the full sound of a big band, they had attitude to spare, and the rebel-rousing legend that is Sammy Davis Jnr, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra remains unmatched to this day.

This unique chapter of musical history has been superbly recreated by the incredible Rat Pack Live tribute concert and the producers are offering two lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets each.

The show has played to

capacity crowds throughout the UK and has a set list of an incredible 45 worldwide hits to choose from.

Featured hits by Dean include, 'Everybody Loves Somebody', 'Volare' and 'Memories Are Made Of This'.

Sammy's hits include 'Black Magic' and 'Me and My Shadow', whilst Frank's hits include 'Fly Me To The Moon', 'My Kind of Town' and 'My Way'.

Together the group will sing 'New York, New York', 'Luck Be A Lady' and 'The Lady Is A Tramp'.

To win tickets, please answer this simple question: The 'Rat Pack Live' production features tributes to Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jnr and which other famous Fifties and Sixties crooner?

Send your answer on a postcard or e-mail to carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk with your name, address, e-mail address and daytime phone number.

Closing date is February 9. There is no cash alternative and our usual rules apply. The editor's decision is final.

To buy tickets for the show call the Grove Theatre box office on 01582 602080.



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This beautiful home has been extended and boasts two generous reception rooms, kitchen and utility room - boasting cloak room facilities. The ground floor is completed by the conservatory that leads to the private and landscaped garden.

The first floor boasts a family bathroom and three bedrooms, the master benefiting from a four piece en-suite bathroom.

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Call now for a free up to date market appraisal

**MAKE ME AN OFFER**

**£260,000**

**vincent road**

**EPC E**

- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Detached Garage with Additional Office
- Off Road Parking

**The Furrows**

**£230,000**

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Sought After Location

**NEW**

**grange avenue**

**£230,000**

**EPC D**

**NEW**

**grange avenue**

**£230,000**

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen & Cloakroom
- Garage & Ample Parking

**NEW**

**hurst way**

**£175,000**

**Awaiting EPC**

- Three Bedroom Property
- Dining Room & Kitchen
- Garage & Driveway
- Popular Location

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**MAKE ME AN OFFER**

**£150,000**

**wexham close**

**EPC D**

- Three Bedroom Property
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Good Decorative Order

**MAKE ME AN OFFER**

**catsbrook road**

**£160,000**

**EPC D**

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Superb Decorative Order
- Re-fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Garden & Off Road Parking

**SSTC**

**£147,500**

**coverdale**

**EPC D**

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- More Buyers Looking in this Area

## NOW! challenge us...

**to Sell your Property in 6 WEEKS!**  
**or we'll give you £1,000 off our normal selling fees.\***

\*Terms and conditions apply.

Ask for further details!

**SSTC**

**willow way**

**£150,000**

**Awaiting EPC**

- Three Bedroom Property
- Bay Fronted Living Room
- Detached Garage
- Chain Free



**St. Michaels Crescent** £215,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking



**Wolston Close** £175,000

- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage
- Off Road Parking



**Hitchin Road** £165,000

- Terraced Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Garden



**The Pyghtle** £160,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Garden



**Talbot Road** £159,995

- Spacious 1900's Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing



**Dallow Road** £150,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking



**Dumfries Street** £100,000

- Spacious Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Communal Gardens
- Residents Parking

## WANTED

Due to a highly successful sales month we are in desperate need of all types of property in the Farley Hill area

If you are considering selling please call urgently on 01582 447714

## WANTED

We have mortgage approved buyers looking to buy in the Dunstable Road area.

If you have a property in the area and are considering selling please call on 01582 447714



**Carterweys** £210,000

- Three Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Front Garden



INSTRUCTION

Awaiting EPC



**Orpington Close** £200,000

- Four Bedrooms
- Downstairs Cloak Room
- Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Bathroom



INSTRUCTION

Awaiting EPC



INSTRUCTION

EPC E

**Victoria Street** £185,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Four Piece Bathroom Suite
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating



**Tithe Farm Road** £184,995

- Four Bedrooms
- Entrance
- Porch
- Dining Room
- Cloakroom



INSTRUCTION

Awaiting EPC



**London Road** £130,000

- Ground Floor Maisonette
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Garden



INSTRUCTION

Awaiting EPC

**Tithe Farm Road** £150,000

- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Garden
- Off Road Parking



**The Cottage** £330,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Family Room
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Four Bedrooms



INSTRUCTION

EPC F



**Langdale Road** £235,000

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking

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REQUIRED IN DUNSTABLE &  
SURROUNDING VILLAGES. PLEASE  
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or we'll give you £1,000 off  
our normal selling fees.\*

\*Terms and conditions apply.



# TAYLORS

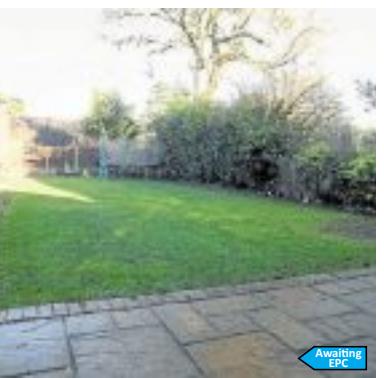
Estate Agents

Sales & Lettings  
Luton 01582 447714



**Whitehill Avenue** £460,000

- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Three/Four Reception Rooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Front & Rear Gardens



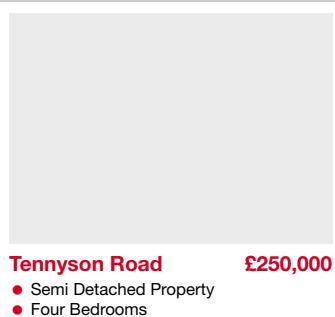
**Kirby Drive** £260,000

- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Garage
- Off Road Parking



NEW  
INSTRUCTION

Awaiting EPC



**Tennyson Road** £250,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Front & Rear Gardens



**St. Michaels Crescent** £220,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking



PRICE  
REDUCED

EPC E



**Farley Hill** £220,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Four Piece Family Bathroom
- Garden



NEW  
INSTRUCTION

Awaiting EPC



**Dallow Road** £165,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garden



**Dallow Road** £150,000

NEW  
INSTRUCTION

EPC E



**Highbury Road** £125,000

- Terraced Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Garden



**Whipperley Ring** £110,000

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

**NOW! challenge us...**

**to Sell your Property in 6 WEEKS!**  
**or we'll give you £1,000 off our normal selling fees.\***

\*Terms and conditions apply.

Ask for further details!



**Mangrove Green** £399,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Dining Room
- Rear Garden & Stables
- Double Garage



EPIC D



**Lothair Road** £255,000

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Garden & Off Road Parking



Awaiting EPC



**Exton Avenue** £250,000

- Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Lounge/Diner
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Rear Garden

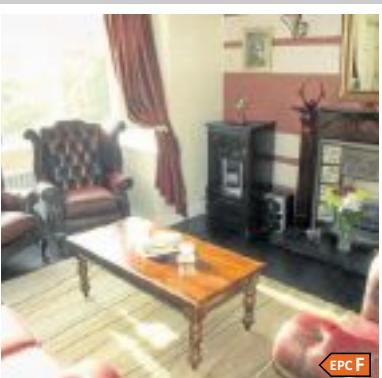


EPIC C



**Walcot Avenue** £220,000

- Detached Property
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Double Garage & Driveway
- No Chain



EPIC F



**Leygreen Close** £185,000

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Front & Rear Parking
- Off Road Parking



EPIC D



**Mayfield Road** £195,000

- Corner Plot
- Popular Location
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking

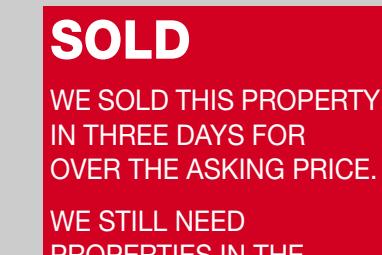


EPIC E



**Cannon Lane** £200,000

- Semi Detached Family House
- Three Bedrooms
- Front Garden
- Viewing Recommended



**SOLD**  
WE SOLD THIS PROPERTY  
IN THREE DAYS FOR  
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WE STILL NEED  
PROPERTIES IN THE  
CANNON LANE AREA.  
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\*Terms and conditions apply.



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Luton:	<b>01582 450 999</b>	Leagrave:	<b>01582 595 127</b>
Dunstable:	<b>01582 661 265</b>	Stopsley:	<b>01582 737 069</b>

\*If you have instructed another agent, the terms and conditions of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions in addition to any withdrawal fees or disbursements. The discount is from the Connells fee scale card. Offer valid at Connells Luton, Leagrave, Dunstable and Stopsley branches only subject to minimum fee. Voucher must be presented at market appraisal. Valid until 30th April 2014.

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Downs Rd £575 pcm

2 beds \* entrance hall \* lounge \* kitchen \* bathroom \* good size flat with furniture \* security gates \* entry phone system



South Luton £675 pcm

2 good size bed1st floor flat \* hall \* big lounge \* separate kitchen \* bathroom \* gas c/h \* redecorated \* parking \* white goods \* available now!



Dunstable Centre £500 pcm

1 bedroom flat. Hall. Lounge. Separate kitchen. Bathroom. White goods. Lift to all floors



South Luton £675 pcm

2 bedrooms 2 receptions Kitchen Bathroom Gas c/h Double glazing Part furnished Rear garden



South Luton £199,950

SEMI \* 3 GOOD SIZE BEDS \* HALL \* 26 4 LOUNGE/DINER \* SEPARATE KITCHEN \* BATHROOM \* GAS C/H \* DOUBLE GLAZ. \* ALARM SYSTEM \* LARGE, CHILD FRIENDLY REAR GARDEN \* GARAGE \* BLOCK PAVED DRIVE \* CHAIN FREE \* LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF LUTON



Poets area £219,950

AN OUTSTANDING EXTENDED 4 BED SEMI. MODERNISED, REDECORATED ACCOMMODATION SITUATED OVER 3 FLOORS \* HALL \* LOUNGE \* CONSERVATORY \* REFITTED KITCHEN/DINER APPLIANCES AS STATED \* STUDY \* MASTER

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Houghton Regis £214,950

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Round Green £184,995

3 BEDROOM SEMI DET. ENTRANCE HALL LOUNGE DINING ROOM CONSERVATORY SEPARATE KITCHEN DOUBLE GLAZED PT. GAS C/H FRONT AND REAR GARDENS



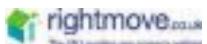
Lea Meadow £79,950

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Icknield Way £299,950

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## Redborne Upper School and Community College

Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Bedfordshire MK45 2NU

Telephone: 01525 404462

NOR: 1,400 (420 Sixth Form) 13 - 18 Mixed Comprehensive

### MATHEMATICS TEACHER

Required for September, 2014

A Mathematics Teacher is required for September, 2014; ability to teach 'A' Level Mathematics will be an advantage but not essential. The successful candidate will be well qualified, keen and enthusiastic and will join a team of dedicated teachers.

### GERMAN TEACHER WITH FRENCH

Required for September, 2014

A Teacher is required for September, 2014 to teach German and some French. The successful candidate will be well qualified, keen and enthusiastic and will join a team of dedicated teachers.

Ability to teach 'A' Level German is essential and candidates should also be able to offer French at least to KS3 and preferably to GCSE standard.

For both the above positions applications from NQTs or experienced teachers are welcome.

The Maths and MFL results at Redborne are consistently very good and we are always striving to improve.

Please telephone Lou Ellis (Principal's P.A.) at the school for further details and an application form; this information is also on our website [www.redborne.com](http://www.redborne.com)

A laptop computer will be loaned to the successful candidate. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring check.

All offers of employment are "conditional" until Disclosure and Barring and qualification checks have been successfully completed and satisfactory references have been received.

Redborne is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

**Closing Date: Tuesday 11th February, 2014**

Redborne is a successful school that achieves excellent examination results, with 97% of students gaining 5A\* - C grades at GCSE (typically over 70% including Maths and English). 'A' Level results are also very good with 61% of passes at 'A\*', 'A' or 'B' grades and an overall pass rate of 99%. About 80% of the Sixth Form go on to university and this year eight students have had Oxbridge offers. The school is well regarded and popular, situated in a very pleasant area of Central Bedfordshire, within easy reach of London. The school's most recent OFSTED report was excellent and we were graded as "outstanding". Redborne is also a National College Leadership Development School and a Leading Edge School.

## EnergyCare

*A better life for you...*

We are now urgently seeking skilled candidates for the available positions as stated below and welcome suitable applicants. All positions are under PAYE with the benefits of paid holiday, etc and wages are processed weekly.

### CAVITY WALL & LOFT INSULATION INSTALLERS

Insulation Division

Experience not essential, full training will be provided through EnergyCare training academy.

EnergyCare is expanding the cavity wall and loft installation division. We require candidates to form part of our team which will operate from our Kempston depot.

The role will entail visiting private homes to install cavity wall and loft installation under the Government ECO / Green Deal scheme.

**Pay per completed job based on property type (average £500 to £1200 per week).**

**Company vehicle, fuel card and uniform provided.**

Full driving licence required.

### HEATING ENGINEERS

Heating Division

Experienced and qualified engineers are urgently required for our expanding heating and boiler division.

Qualifications must include each of the following: CCNI, CPA1, HTR, CENWAT, CKR1 and Gas Safe Registration. All work is provided on a daily diary via email.

**Expected earnings range from £28,000 to £50,000 per annum.** (productivity dependant).

**Company vehicle, fuel card and uniform provided.**

Full driving licence required.



To apply for any position, please send a CV to [energycareltd@btconnect.com](mailto:energycareltd@btconnect.com)

or 1 Appley Court, Appley Wood Corner, Haynes, Beds, MK45 3QQ.  
Please also specify which position you are applying for.



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bedford Borough Council takes great care to recruit the very best people so that the services we provide to our community are first class. We believe that the best work gets done in an environment that's enjoyable and which values, supports and encourages the development of its employees. In return we expect our employees to work hard and be committed to help us achieve our vision and share our values.

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You should be an experienced Class C Driver with recent experience of driving large vehicles, be numerate with a good standard of English and have experience of working with the public.

As well as driving the vehicle, you will be required to deal with enquiries, use IT, issue books and return them to the shelves and carry out basic maintenance vehicle checks. A clean driving licence and the ability to lift and move boxes of books are essential. You will be required to undergo a driving assessment.

For full job details visit [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)

Closing date: 17 February 2014

Posts working with children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

The Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer.



### ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rotheram Avenue, Luton LU1 5PP

#### Teachers for Early Years, KS1 and KS2

MPS / UPS

Vacancy ID: 100796

Diocese of Northampton in Partnership with Luton Borough Council

Due to our continuing expansion we are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking teachers to work in Early Years, KS1 or KS2. You should be energetic, resilient and resourceful with a passion for excellent teaching and learning.

In return we can offer you children who are keen to learn, a modern, well-resourced teaching environment with supportive Governors and colleagues.

Visits to the school are encouraged. For further details and an application form please contact school telephone 01582723430 or email [st.margaret.of.scotland.primary.admin@luton.gov.uk](mailto:st.margaret.of.scotland.primary.admin@luton.gov.uk) or download the Teacher application form from [catholiceducation.org.uk](http://catholiceducation.org.uk)

Closing date: 13 February 2014 at 12noon

Interview date: w/c 3rd March 2014

**CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.**  
**Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.**  
**Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.**

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

LUTON

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**Are you friendly, enthusiastic, energetic and outgoing?**  
**Do you thrive on being where the action is?**  
**Are you looking for a career with a dynamic growing organization?**  
**If the answer is yes...**

Then the Advertising Sales Team would like you to work with them on three of the best read newspapers in the county and our associated websites.

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Are you outgoing and talkative? A good telephone manner would be a necessity, but we need

individuals who work quickly with others, like involvement, have good persuasive skills and heaps of enthusiasm.

### We Offer

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- Great potential for career development
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If you believe you have that 'certain something' needed to work at Luton on Sunday & Bedfordshire on Sunday please email Sharon Hobday for an application pack at: [sharon.hobday@localworld.co.uk](mailto:sharon.hobday@localworld.co.uk)



As a division of Local World we also publish weekly newspapers and websites across Herts, Beds, Bucks, Cambs, Northants, Staffs and Essex.

It is the company's policy to employ the best qualified personnel and provide opportunity for the advancement of employees including promotion and training and not discriminate against any person because of sex, race, pregnancy, disability, marital or family status, ages, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or trade union memberships. (Previous applicants need not apply)

# www.jobsnow.co.uk



## Redborne Upper School and Community College

Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Bedfordshire MK45 2NU

Telephone: 01525 404462

NOR: 1,400 (420 Sixth Form) 13 - 18 Mixed Comprehensive

### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Required as soon as possible

Level 3A

Point range 15 - 18 (depending on experience)

£16,215 - £17,333 pro rata

Actual Salary will be £9,497 - £10,151

Term Time Only

(25 hours per week)

A Finance and Administration Officer is required as soon as possible. The successful candidate will work alongside the Finance staff with the administration of purchases, on-line payments and other tasks to be agreed. The successful candidate will be required to demonstrate excellent IT and financial skills. Good communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team is important. If you would like an informal discussion before submitting an application, please telephone Steve Anson, Business Manager on 01525 842605.

Please telephone Lou Ellis (Principal's P.A.) at the school for further details and an application form; this information is also on our website [www.redborne.com](http://www.redborne.com)

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring check.

This is a permanent position and all offers of employment are "conditional" until Disclosure and Barring and qualification checks have been successfully completed and satisfactory references have been received.

Redborne is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

**Closing Date: Monday 10th February, 2014 at noon**  
**Interviews will take place on Friday 14th February, 2014**

Redborne is a successful school that achieves excellent examination results, with 97% of students gaining 5A\* - C grades at GCSE (typically over 70% including Maths and English). 'A' Level results are also very good with 61% of passes at 'A\*', 'A' or 'B' grades and an overall pass rate of 99%. About 80% of the Sixth Form go on to university and this year eight students have had Oxbridge offers. The school is well regarded and popular, situated in a very pleasant area of Central Bedfordshire, within easy reach of London. The school's most recent OFSTED report was excellent and we were graded as "outstanding". Redborne is also a National College Leadership Development School and a Leading Edge School.



## MIS AND PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICER

We are seeking an experienced and professional MIS and Project Support Officer who will have an integral part in further developing ICT and MIS systems throughout the school.

Working as part of the ICT team, the successful candidate will be responsible for enhancing the school's MIS systems, pro-actively managing ICT projects and successfully resolving technical problems across school MIS systems. Experience of project management, report writing and the ability to analyse complex data are all essential for this role.

## SYSTEMS ENGINEER

We are also looking for a Systems Engineer, who will support the school's IT server infrastructure and provide a high level of support to school users.

The successful candidate will undertake support (including installations, configurations and repairs), identify, investigate and resolve technical incidents and pro-actively develop and enhance the school's IT server infrastructure. Proven experience in a similar position and a relevant Microsoft or industry recognised qualification will be needed for this role.

Working hours for both roles are an average of 37 hours per week, all year round, including some Saturday mornings during term time, on a rota basis.

For further details and an application pack for both roles please visit our website:

[www.bedfordschool.org.uk/support-staff-vacancies](http://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/support-staff-vacancies)

Completed applications should be emailed to:

[hr@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:hr@bedfordschool.org.uk)

or posted to: Anna Smith, HR Adviser, The Bursary  
 Bedford School, 10 Glebe Road, Bedford MK40 2PL.

[www.bedfordschool.org.uk](http://www.bedfordschool.org.uk)

The Harpur Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check, references and other checks.

Bedford School is part of the Harpur Trust

**Closing Date**  
 12 February 2014

### WHIPPERLEY INFANT ACADEMY

Whipperley Ring, Farley Hill, Luton, LU1 5QY

### PE & Outdoor Education Specialist

£16,081 - £19,035 p.a

Vacancy ID: 100799

30 hours per week, term time plus 5 training days

Are you a dynamic individual with a passion for developing children's and families engagement in sports and the outdoor environment? If you are then we can provide:

A well resourced school, happy and well motivated children who are keen to learn, a vibrant multicultural community, a great staff team and a real commitment to continuing professional development. If you want to make a real difference then come and talk to us, show us your vision and together we can make it happen.

To apply for this role, visit [www.luton.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.luton.gov.uk/jobs)

Closing date: 12 February 2014

Interview date: w/c 24 February 2014

**CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.**

**Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.**

**Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.**



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## BURSAR'S ASSISTANT

We are looking for a flexible and professional individual to assist the Bursar in compliance and governance work and to provide efficient administrative support.

Hours are an average of 37 per week all year round, including some Saturday mornings on a rota basis.

For further details and an application pack please visit: [www.bedfordschool.org.uk/support-staff-vacancies](http://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/support-staff-vacancies)

Completed applications should be emailed to: [hr@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:hr@bedfordschool.org.uk) or posted to: Anna Smith, HR Adviser, The Bursary, Bedford School, 10 Glebe Road, Bedford MK40 2PL.

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Closing Date  
12 February 2014

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## HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES



Salary: £40 - £45k per annum.

Full-Time Permanent

Based: Dunstable, Bedfordshire

The College seeks to recruit a fully-qualified and experienced HR professional to lead the small HR team and provide a professional HR service to the organisation. The successful candidate should be a hands-on manager, capable of clear-thinking and precision in the organisation of the work flow of the department.

The College is undertaking a significant change programme on our journey to become an outstanding provider and the Head of Human Resources will have a significant role to play in achieving our objectives.

Closing date: 9am Friday 14th February 2014

Interviews: Monday 24th February 2014

For detailed information and to apply for this job, visit the website <http://www.centralbeds.ac.uk/work-for-us> and download the application form, or e-mail recruitment@centralbeds.ac.uk.

All roles are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosure



Teachers  
£24,745-£36,360

Business Manager  
£34,340-£45,000

Technician (Design Technology)  
£14,160-£18,180 pro rata



**Closing Date: Midday, Tuesday 18 February  
(Interviews commencing: Monday 24 February)**

We are looking to recruit outstanding professionals to join our team. Our staff will:

- share our values of respect, honesty and high expectations
- believe every student is capable of the highest level of academic and personal success and go the extra mile for our students and their families
- have the ability to inspire students to ensure they achieve the best possible individual outcomes within an aspirational environment.

We are a small, intimate school where staff and students know each other and look out for each other. Safeguarding children enrolled at the School is of paramount importance, and we are fully committed to the protection and safe care of our students. The successful applicants will be required to undertake appropriate checks as well as providing proof of their right to work in the UK.

**Small school, big curriculum, infinite possibilities.**

Further information on these vacancies and application forms will be available at [www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk](http://www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk)

## Business Administrator

LSN Media provides news and multimedia solutions across our extensive portfolio, including Bedfordshire on Sunday, MK News, Northants Herald & Post and Luton on Sunday.

We are seeking a Business Administrator to provide administration and secretarial support to our Publisher, Director of Content and management team within LSN Media. The position is based at our Bedford office and being able to drive is essential as the candidate will be required to visit our other offices within the business.

The position would suit a motivated and pro-active individual with sound organisational and administrative skills. Experience in a similar role is essential. The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills, have competent IT skills with knowledge of Microsoft Office package.

In return we offer 25 days holiday per year, great potential for further career development, contributory pension and healthcare after qualifying period.

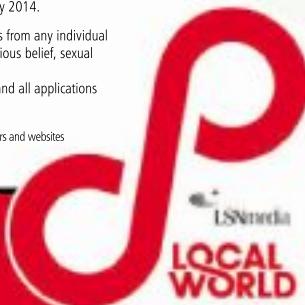
If you feel you are suited to this position and are interested in applying for this role, please request an application pack with a covering letter from Alison Lloyd by email - [Alison.lloyd@localworld.co.uk](mailto:Alison.lloyd@localworld.co.uk).

Closing date for applications is Friday 7th February 2014.

It is the company's policy to welcome applications from any individual regardless of ethnic origin, gender, disability, religious belief, sexual orientation or age.

We encourage applications from all walks of life and all applications will be considered on merit.

As a division of Local World we also publish weekly newspapers and websites across Herts, Beds, Bucks, Cambs, Northants, Staffs and Essex.



It is the company's policy to employ the best qualified personnel and provide opportunity for the advancement of employees including promotion and training and not discriminate against any person because of sex, race, pregnancy, disability, marital or family status, ages, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or trade union memberships. (Previous applicants need not apply).

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## MAINTENANCE PERSON

Working as part of a busy team, we are looking for a flexible and enthusiastic individual to undertake general maintenance work and repairs throughout the school site. The position will also include small plumbing jobs so some experience in this area is needed for this role.

Hours are 39 per week all year round.

## SECURITY OFFICER (EVENINGS)

We are also seeking an experienced Security Officer to ensure that high standards of safety and security are maintained throughout the School Estate during the evening period. Security experience is preferred for this role, along with a current full driving licence as the position involves moving school vehicles.

Hours are an average of 20.15 per week, term time plus six weeks in the school holidays. Working hours are 6.30pm - 10.30pm, Monday to Friday when the school is in session and 4.30pm - 10.30pm on alternate evenings during the holidays.

For further details and an application pack for both roles please visit our website:

[www.bedfordschool.org.uk/support-staff-vacancies](http://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/support-staff-vacancies)

Completed applications should be emailed to:

[hr@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:hr@bedfordschool.org.uk)

or posted to: Anna Smith, HR Adviser, The Bursary, Bedford School, 10 Glebe Road, Bedford MK40 2PL.

[www.bedfordschool.org.uk](http://www.bedfordschool.org.uk)

The Harpur Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check, references and other checks.

Bedford School is part of the Harpur Trust

Closing Date  
12 February 2014

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## MAIDENHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newark Road, Luton LU4 8LD

## Family Worker

£20,721 - £23,476 p.a.

Vacancy ID: 100797

37 hours per week, term-time plus 5 training days

Maidenhall Primary School is seeking a Family Worker as soon as possible to develop parent/community links within the school.

We are looking for reliable, committed, caring and enthusiastic individuals who are committed to providing the very best support for our parents and children.

This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the future development of Maidenhall Primary and achieve our ambition of becoming an outstanding school. Maidenhall is a large diverse school with successful, dedicated staff and fantastic pupils. Visits to the school are welcome, please contact us to make an appointment.

We are able to offer:

- An attractive, well resourced working environment
- Supportive, well motivated, friendly colleagues
- Wide opportunities for professional development
- Children who are keen to learn and well behaved
- Suitable parents

To apply for this role, visit [www.luton.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.luton.gov.uk/jobs)

Closing date: 14 February 2014 at 12noon

Interview date: w/c 24 February 2014

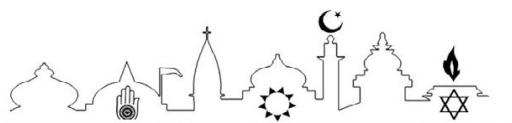
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**Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.**

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

**LUTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



## LUTON COUNCIL OF FAITHS

**Job Advert****Luton Council of Faiths Project Worker  
(Part-time 10 hours per week @ £14k pa)**

Successful applicants must be self motivated, with experience of inter-faith & community cohesion work and able to work with and stimulate a wide range of diverse community and faith groups and schools.

Good communications skills are essential.

Applicants may need their own transport, and up to date computer skills. An interest and preferably a qualification in sport of Archery & Community Health with good leadership skills will be important.

This post is funded through the National Lottery by the Big Lottery Fund. The post is open to all irrespective of race, gender, beliefs or disabilities.

Please send CVs and a covering letter, communicating your suitability for the job, to David Jonathan, Luton Council of Faiths c/o Grassroots, 47, High Town Road, Luton LU2 0BW or email at admiringgrassroots@btconnect.com no later than 5pm on 7th Feb 2014. Interviews will be held on 14th Feb at 4pm.

Full job descriptions can also be requested using the email above.

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BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Child Development Centre

Hill Rise, Kempston, Beds MK42 7EB

**Specialist Nursery Nurse (SEN)**

£19,621 - £21,519 pro rata pa Permanent  
32.5 hours per week, Term-time only

Required as soon as possible, Specialist Nursery Nurse working within the Early Years Support Team, assisting in the assessment and support of children from birth to 5 who have SEN. Duties include working within a multi-disciplinary environment and supporting families and early years settings to meet the identified needs of early years pupils with SEN.

Essential specifications NNEB/BTEC or equivalent, substantial experience within Early Years and SEN.

For informal enquires please contact Debbie Albone on tel: 01234 290770

Closing date: 21st February 2014.

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**Transport Coordinator**

Dunstable

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You will need to demonstrate excellent organisational skills, have a good eye for detail, and ideally have routing and planning experience. You must be able to work on your own initiative and respond proactively and decisively, especially when under pressure, to make the right decisions within demanding deadlines.

The ability to operate within very strict timings in a fast moving environment, combined with excellent communication skills, is essential.

If you are proactive, with a flexible attitude and strong IT skills, then please send your CV to Steve Adams at [sadams@mortimers.co.uk](mailto:sadams@mortimers.co.uk)

Strictly No Agencies.



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Artistic Director**

(based in Luton)

**Salary range:  
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**Permanent**

15 hours per week (to be worked around the artistic programme)

The UK Centre for Carnival Arts is a strategic national organisation which nurtures new artistic talent, runs learning programmes for young people and supports and trains the Carnival sector.



If you feel your skills match our expectations please download an application pack from our website [www.carnivalarts.org.uk](http://www.carnivalarts.org.uk) or email [maggie@carnivalarts.org.uk](mailto:maggie@carnivalarts.org.uk)

**Closing date:**  
Monday 3rd March 2014 (noon)  
**Interviews:** Tuesday 18th March 2014

The UKCCA is an equal opportunities employer.

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GLW

**PRACTICE NURSES**

Practice Nurse Required for large friendly GP practice in Flitwick experience desirable but training will be given to the right candidate. Hours negotiable, full and part time considered but will need to be flexible.

Salary subject to qualifications and experience.

For details and application form please visit our website: [www.flitwicksurgery.co.uk](http://www.flitwicksurgery.co.uk)

Closing date: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February

GLW

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Site: Hayward Tyler, 1 Kimpton Road

Description: Erection of a new industrial building after partial demolition of existing building and upgrade to the existing facade and associated external works.

Application no.: 13/01700/FUL

Site: 31 King Street

Description: Conversion and change of use of second floor office A2 to a 1 bedroom flat

Application no.: 14/00061/COU Conservation Area

The application and submitted details can be inspected using Public Access, the on-line planning service at [www.eplan.luton.gov.uk](http://www.eplan.luton.gov.uk) and enter the application number into the Application Search. This site can be accessed at any library free of charge. If you wish to discuss the proposal, please contact the Case Officer on Luton 546317.

Any representations should be made to the Development Control Manager within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number above. This can be done in writing or on-line through public access (full details can be found on the website).

DATED: 2nd February 2014  
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Cemetery Section	Grave No.	Surname of the Holder of the Exclusive Right of Burial
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D	477	LEECH
E	251	WELCH
E	265	ALLEN
E	317	KEIGHTLEY
E	583	BARFORD
E	828	SEYMORE
F	51	MCMON
F	715	HOBBS
G	23	BINNS
G	280	GREENE
G	432	THORPE
G	707	ANDERSON
G	707A	ANDERSON
H	338	POLLARD
H	741	COOT
H	780	TEARLE
J	62	HALFORD

The Council intends to extinguish the rights on these graves on 1st August 2014. After this date all existing rights will be deemed to be extinguished unless the Council has been notified in writing of an objection by the owner of the grave or a next of kin with a legal claim on the exclusive right of burial in the grave.

If you are the current owner of one of the graves listed here or believe you know the whereabouts of these families, please contact:

Kate Dimmock  
Cemetery and Grounds Administration Officer  
Dunstable Town Council  
Grove House  
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30th January 2014



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Proceedings are ongoing and we are appealing for further information to secure justice for a beloved wife, mother and grandmother.

Perhaps you know something about building work at the school that may have disturbed asbestos within the ceilings, walls and other parts of the building, or are a victim of asbestos-related illness yourself due to working at or attending the school. Our team of lawyers is experienced in handling cases sensitively, so please get in touch and help us rebuild the lives of the victim's family. Contact:

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We've seen all of the engines before elsewhere in the Audi and VW group line-ups. The TSI petrol engines use turbocharging to compensate for their modest capacities, the 1.2 TSI achieving 86PS with 160Nm of torque and the entry-level 1.4 TSI chipping in with 122PS and 200Nm. There's also a 185PS version of this 1.4 that uses both supercharger and turbocharger allied with a clever 7-speed DSG semi-automatic gearbox. The diesel option is a 1.6-litre common-rail injection TDI

unit with 105PS and 250Nm. Both of the entry-level petrol engines return very similar economy and emissions figures of about 55mpg and 119g/km. The diesel is substantially better with an excellent 70.6mpg and a CO<sub>2</sub> output of 105g/km.

A conventional supermini shape is adopted by the A1, which isn't a great surprise given its mechanical similarity to the largely conventional VW Polo. It also means that the A1 gains an edge over rivals from the trendier end of the supermini sector with a 267-litre boot that expands to 920 litres with the rear seat backs folded.

The exterior of the car is crawling with recognisable Audi design cues and although you couldn't call the looks adventurous, the A1 has got the combination of neat proportions and engaging detailing that Audi does so well. The one feature that obviously breaks from the Audi master plan is the roof arch which can be specified in a different colour to the rest of the bodywork.

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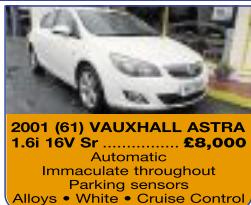


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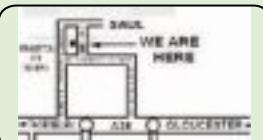
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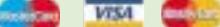
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Dartford	P	Luton Town
Bashley	P	Bedford Town
Arlessey Town	P	Chippingham Town
Biggleswade T	P	AFC Totton

CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER		
AFC Hayes	P	Barton Rovers
Leighton Town	1	Chalfont St Peter
Daventry Town	P	Dunstable Town

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION		
AFC Kempston Rv	P	Spalding United

SPARTAN SOUTH MIDS PREMIER DIVISION		
AFC Dunstable	1	Oxhey Jets
Amphill Town	3	Hertford
Biggleswade Utd	P	London Lions
Stotfold	P	Cockfosters

SPARTAN SOUTH MIDS DIVISION TWO		
Pitstone & I'hoe	P	Totternhoe

BEDFORDSHIRE FA SENIOR TROPHY SEMI FINALS		
The G1 FC	P	Bedford FC
Wootton Blue Crs	P	Crawley Green

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY PREMIER DIVISION		
Ickwell & Old W	4	Caldecote
Marston S Rovers	P	Wistead
Pavenham	P	Flitwick Town
Sheff Twin & C	2	AFC Kemp T&BC
Renhold United	P	Sharnbrook

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY DIVISION ONE		
Bromham United	P	AFC Turvey
Eustow Abbey	7	Woburn Lions
Henlow	P	Marabese Ceram
Sundon PR	1	Sheff Twin & C R

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY DIVISION TWO		
AFC Kemp T&BC R	7	Kings AFC
Co-op Sports	3	Renhold United R
Cranfield United	P	AFC Oakley Sp R
Great Barford	4	Potters Town
Queens Park Cres	P	Riseley Sports

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY DIVISION THREE		
Bedford Panthers	P	Melitis Albion
Clifton R	P	Kempston H Sp
Kempston Athletic	P	Marston S Rovers R
Kempston Con Clb	O	Westonings
Stevington	5	AFC Bush
Wilstead R	P	Ickwell & Old W R

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY DIVISION FOUR		
Clapham Sports	5	Atletico Europa
Flitwick Town R	5	Sheff Twin & C A
Melitis Albion R	P	Bedford PR
Moggerhanger Utd	5	Caldecote A
Sandy R	P	Wootton Village

CENTENARY CUP		
Brickhill Tigers	P	Bedford SA
Goldington	P	Sandy

LUTON AND DISTRICT PREMIER DIVISION		
Lewsey Park	O	Markyate
Luton Leagrave	1	Farley Boys

LUTON AND DISTRICT DIVISION ONE		
Farley Boys 2nd XI	L	LU Four
North Sundon Wrs	1	Luton Leagrave B

LUTON AND DISTRICT PREMIER DIVISION CUP		
Four Model	3	Christians In Sport
Jedenastka	3	St Josephs

LUTON AND DISTRICT DIVISION ONE CUP		
Blue Line Aces	2	Markyate 2nd XI
F'n'E Rangers	4	Square Rangers

# Uni's professor helps to pick Sochi squad

## WINTER OLYMPICS

**BY DAN PALMER**
[sport@lsnmedia.co.uk](mailto:sport@lsnmedia.co.uk)

ing a strong showing from the GB bobsleigh team in Russia will aid the development of two local students, Antoe Walters and Ashley Watson, who were in the running to represent GB at Sochi but just missed out this time.

He added: "By allowing me to take on the role of chair of British Ski and Snowboard, the University of Bedfordshire has played a role in supporting the country in Sochi – something I am very proud of."

"And whilst they're not part of the bobsleigh squad in Russia next month, Antoe and Ashley will clearly benefit from a successful Olympics for the bobsleigh team, which could mean a duo of local students competing in the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea."

The Winter Olympics in Sochi are to get underway on Thursday February 6.

**SELECTOR: John Brewer**

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## Luton book cup final place by beating local rivals

## RUGBY UNION

**BY TIM BARTLETT**
[sport@lsnmedia.co.uk](mailto:sport@lsnmedia.co.uk)

a in ten minute period midway through the half turned things around for the visitors.

First Mike Weston scored, converted by Chris Talanoa, to reduce the deficit to two points, before Talanoa himself added Luton's third try of the afternoon, to which he added the conversion, to give Luton a 19-14 advantage.

Within minutes, Weston had added his second try of the afternoon, and Luton lead their opponents 24-14, which was how it remained despite Ath's best efforts to get back into the game.

Bedford had voted Luton's Mike Weston as the man of the match on the day, a decision supported by Luton's Skipper Pat Nelly.

"Mike's very good going forward, he's got ridiculously strong leg drive, it makes life so much easier for the other forwards because it allows you to get on the front foot which is what the game's all about," said Nelly.

STOCKWOOD PARK were beaten at home 20-13, by Midlands 3 West (South), Pershore in the RFU Senior Vase this weekend.

Aaron Beattie and James Hankey both went over for Stockwood but it was not enough for a place in the quarter finals of the competition.


**FINAL SPOT:**
**Action from Luton v Bedford Ath.**

Picture: Ian Nancollas

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# Opinion: Hatters boss is comparable to Del Boy

In his latest blog for Luton on Sunday, Hatters fan Gavin Daly hails manager John Still's prowess in the transfer market – and suggests that he is similar to a certain legendary character from Only Fools & Horses. You can read more of his work online at [www.luton-dunstable.co.uk/sport](http://www.luton-dunstable.co.uk/sport).

BY GAVIN DALY  
[sport@lsmedia.co.uk](mailto:sport@lsmedia.co.uk)

**WHILE** most fans would have been expecting the return of Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu to Kenilworth Road until the end of the season, for manager John Still to pull off a coup and sign him permanently on Tuesday once again shows the 'John Still Effect'.

Add Jernade Meade, a player who has Champions League experience, to the list of recent signings, albeit on loan, and you really start to wonder how the gaffer does it.

He really does seem like a modern day footballoing Del Boy, and us Hatters are loving it.

I can't remember the last time we had a man-

ager who commanded as much respect as John Still does, and not just from players but from opposition managers...minus a certain former manager maybe.

While most non-league clubs look at League One or (at a push) Championship players for loans, here is a man who mixes everything.

He's just as capable at picking a diamond from the rough like Andy Parry as he is scouting the reserves of Premier League teams for future stars such as the likes of Pelly, Cameron McGeehan and now Jernade Meade.

Luton Town FC as a club is a huge attraction for players, we all know that.

To be able to play in front of 7,000 fans means we are one of the bigger teams not just in non-league but outside of the Championship and the players who finally get us into the Football League after a five year absence (so far) know they will be hailed as heroes.

But is that enough to convince a player to drop down four divisions?

I remember when we signed Mark Cullen from Hull City in the summer and John Still in his

interview expressed his delight in securing his services as he didn't think he would drop down to this level.

While Mark spoke highly of the club it was John Still's honesty that apparently outshone everything else and his talk of the project he was building at Luton.

It made him want to be a part of it.

With no disrespect to our previous managers, who all left us with something positive for Still to build on, we haven't had that in recent years.

Still has also brought that level of never say never and although we didn't sign anybody on January 31, for the first time in a few years I was excited about Deadline Day.

It has still been a good January for us and a big portion of that is down to the 'John Still Effect'.

Long may it continue.

- Agree/disagree? Leave your comments for us online. If you'd like to blog for Luton on Sunday, e-mail [sport@lsmedia.co.uk](mailto:sport@lsmedia.co.uk) and we will get back to you.

Gavin is the owner of the website [lutontown-namerica.com](http://lutontown-namerica.com).



LOAN: Solomon Taiwo

## Meade 'delighted' to sign on

**FROM BACK PAGE**  
 development team who is my old pal. "They told me about the boy and they said he was very good, competitive, can play, can run, can tackle, so we enquired and Swansea bent over backwards to help."

"He 100 per cent wanted to come, he was delighted to come back here and delighted to play for Luton, and that's a plus."

But with the team unbeaten in 20 league games, and loan signings Cameron McGeehan and Ryan Inness already impressing, the boss has warned that the pair won't walk straight into the side.

"It [the additions] has made the squad strong-

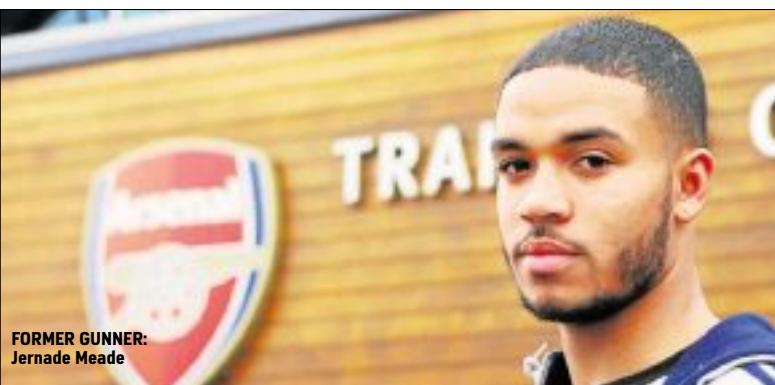
er and the competition to get in is fierce," he said.

"They've got to work hard and wait for their chance and then take their chance."

• Both Ruddock Mpanzu and Meade will have to wait a little longer for their first taste of Hatters action since their signatures as yesterday's scheduled Skrill Premier contest at Dartford was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

A pitch inspection took place at 9.30am, but it was found the surface was in an unplayable condition following heavy rainfall.

A new date for the fixture will be scheduled in due course.



FORMER GUNNER:  
 Jernade Meade

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# Sport

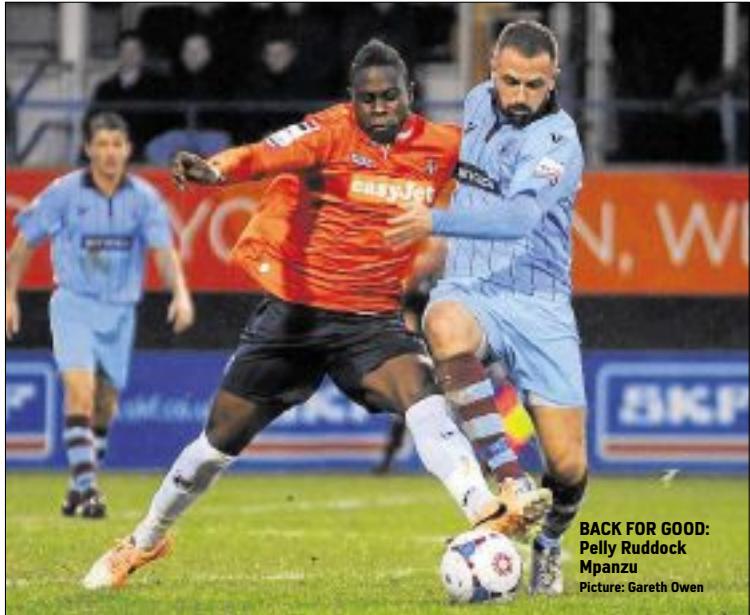
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# Still grateful for club's support after duo sign



**BACK FOR GOOD:**  
Pelly Ruddock  
Mpanzu  
Picture: Gareth Owen

## HATTERS

BY LAUREN ARCHELL  
[sport@ltsmedia.co.uk](mailto:sport@ltsmedia.co.uk)

LUTON Town manager John Still has said 'thank you' to the club for their support in bringing new faces to Kenilworth Road.

This week the Hatters announced they had re-signed West Ham youngster and former loanee Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu on a permanent deal and Jernade Meade from Swansea City on a season-long loan.

"You know, I think that the club has supported me fantastically and I have to say thank you," said the boss.

"It was Gary Sweet who did the negotiations, so I have to say thanks for negotiating to get the players."

"I really appreciate that and it shows that they have faith in what I want to do."

The manager went on to sing the praises of the latest additions to the Luton squad. "Everyone knows Pelly and

when he went back and picked up the injury we said we would speak about loans when he was fit," said Still.

"I can't remember who said it, but someone said 'any chance of buying him?'

"We had a chat and asked the question and we got a positive and followed it through."

"We didn't have a problem talking to West Ham and managed to negotiate that pretty quickly."

"We didn't know how it would go with Pelly himself, once West Ham had spoken to him about his future there, I could have understood if he wanted to try and find a team in a higher league and explore all the avenues."

"But he said 'I want to come to Luton' and once it was done it got done very quickly."

"Since we've signed him I've had calls from different places asking 'how did you sign him, what did you do?'

"If it was out there other clubs would have been coming on to him and there wouldn't have been anything

we could have done about that."

"But as soon as West Ham said Luton, he said 'lovely' and the conversation between player and agent was five minutes long."

"Once we were all happy we just did it and it worked perfectly."

The manager added that Luton-born Meade was one that he had spotted during a development game a couple of years ago.

"It was a different one there, we were alerted about Jernade and I knew I recognised the name but I couldn't get my head around it," he said.

"I looked through some old programmes and development sheets and found that I had seen him play left back at Arsenal."

"I had ticked him off as being competitive and being able to pass."

"I rang Tony Roberts, Arsenal goalkeeping coach and my old goalkeeper, and Terry Burton of the

TURN TO PAGE 63

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